(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A total of 4931 STD/ISD/PCO booths are functioning in Assam as on 30.11.99.

(b) STD/ISD/PCOs are now allotted liberally to the educated unemployed persons on first come first served basis as per registration subject to technical feasibility. The war-widows/ dependants, ST/SC, handicapped persons and ex-servicemen are given priority to the extent of 50% of the STD/ISD/PCOs to be allotted.

(c) Does not arise.

Waiting list of Telephone Connections

2016. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 112 given in Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1999 and state the number of telephone connections provided in each category during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The number of telephone connections provided during last three years is as per the given Statement. (*See* below)

The standing instructions for allotment of telephone connections are that OYT, special and general category are given in the ratio 60:10:30 respectively. However, if the waiting list in OYT category is less, the excess is utilized for clearing the waiting list in special and general categories, after reserving for an estimated one year requirement in OYT category.

Statement

The number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, State-wise

Sl. No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153606	216487	404980

Sl. No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
2.	Assam	18003	36477	50375
3.	Bihar	52368	66294	103128
4.	Gujarat (including Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli)	163053	213824	255388
5.	Haryana	60800	73081	96170
6.	Himachal Pradesh	31452	40176	43217
7.	J & K	15945	20819	18501
8.	Karnataka	189608	254378	237002
9.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep U.T.)	172775	230010	271065
10.	Madhya Pradesh	75541	102692	140352
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa and Mumbai)	458260	501441	502129
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	18056	23030	35116
13.	Orissa	32505	67178	68175
14.	Punjab (including Chandigarh U.T.)	153560	165969	193469
15.	Rajasthan	113518	147632	171445
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai & Pondicherry U.T.)	290082	364546	480238
17.	Uttar Pradesh	216912	313918	341602
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andeman & Nikobar Islands and Calcutta	145052	240152	289246
19.	Delhi	203160	180941	90392
	TOTAL	2564256	3259045	3791990